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Johnny was a survivor, having lived for years in an unofficial group home and worked in an official one right next door. He knew the life. Always on the edge, between nearly unbearable poverty on welfare and truly unbearable work (on not much more than welfare). He knew how it was....

Not masturbating too loudly on the 3rd floor because it made the schizophrenic escalate on the 2nd floor which kept the landlady awake on the 1st. He even knew how it smelled. Guys smoking cheap native cigarettes on Emile Durkheim!s balcony right next door. Ground Zero.

The toilets got plugged all the way to the street. The snake couldn't reach that far. No water to flush with. They bought Perrier from the Koreans next door and filled the tanks.